

LAKE TEMISCAMINGUE.

INTRODUCTION.

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In writing this short pamphlet, I have endeavored to treat the subject as dispassionately as is consistent with one whose heart is in the work, and who believes in the great future of Lake Temiscamingue.

I have only stated what I know to be facts, and in relation to agricultural possibilities I write from an experience that extends over a period of about twenty years.

I have not quoted the words of others, believing that my own experience should teach me best what information is most needed by intending settlers, and that one whose manhood has been spent in any particular portion of a country, has more real knowledge of its conditions than could possibly be gained by a hurried visit, or from unreliable hearsay. I have sacrificed the artistic, the literary and the romantic, for the practical, everyday questions of common sense.

Nor is this a guide book for tourists. I speak to men with whom the question of the day is how to live and make money, not how to spend it; for by such men is the bush subdued, and the forests turned into farms.

I wish it understood that I do not advise men enjoying comfortable homes to exchange them for the bush. Bush farming is not a pastime nor a pleasure; it is hard, uncompromising work; nor would I care to take the responsibility of advising any man to undertake it, but I can assure those who wish to try it that the land in the Lake Temiscamingue district is good, and that all the other conditions are such that the making of a comfortable home, and the gaining of an independence, are merely questions of energy and time.

LAKE TEMISCAMINGUE.

Twenty-five years ago, school children were taught that Lake Temiscamingue was the source of the River Ottawa, a fallacy that was disproved on closer examination by competent men, who found that it was merely an expansion of the Ottawa, the source of which must be looked for between three and four hundred miles further north and east. In those days, however, little was known of our vast possessions north of the line of settlement, they being generally considered rough and unfit for cultivation, and with a climate so rigorous as to preclude all ideas of agricultural possibilities, fit only as the habitation of fur-bearing animals, or of the Indians who hunted them.

The last few years have proved that this was all a grave mistake, and that geographically Temiscamingue is further south than many countries famous for their cereals—south of London, of Paris, of Vienna, and of the best wheat growing sections of European Russia, whilst on our own continent Manitoba and the great North-West are to us in latitude as is the North Pole. Even Rainy River, lately proved suitable for agriculture, is north of Temiscamingue, while Minnesota, Dakota, and parts of Michigan are away north, and yet people will talk of almost perpetual snow and ice in these regions, when a glance at the map will show those who know anything of geography, latitude and isothermal lines, that Temiscamingue lies in the very centre of the best wheat-producing belt in the world. Therefore, having proved geographically and logically that the climate is all that could be desired, practical demonstration of which will be found further on, let us now consider the nature and quality of the soil.